

spouse, which was originally intended, but has either been circumvented or ignored.

I urge my colleagues to join me in seeking equity for military retirees by cosponsoring this bill.

MEMORIAL DAY IS A DAY TO
REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day was established in 1868 to pay tribute to individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice to the United States and their families. The men and women of the armed services of today and yesterday took an oath to uphold and protect the constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic. Those who served in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps have been willing to lay their lives on the line to keep this greatest nation on the earth free. We must never forget the importance of this oath and this sacrifice.

Last year, when Public Law No. 106-579 was signed into law, we reaffirmed the importance of remembering and renewing the legacy of Memorial Day. We as a nation need to reclaim memorial Day as the sacred and noble event the day was intended to be. We can do this by taking greater strides to domestic appreciation for those loyal people of the United States whose values, represented by their sacrifices, are critical to the future of the United States. As a Government, we have a responsibility to raise awareness of and respect for the national heritage, and to encourage citizens to dedicate themselves to the values and principles for which those heroes of the United States died.

As part of this reaffirmation, Congress and the President called on the people of the United States to pause at 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day to observe a National Moment of Remembrance. By doing so we honor the men and women of the United States who died in the pursuit of freedom and peace.

Memorial weekend has become the signal in this country that summer has begun. In Indianapolis this weekend we have the great Indy 500 race and festivities. It is a great weekend for Hoosiers. I hope that each American as we go about our holiday weekend will at the very least remember to take that moment on Monday and pause at 3:00 p.m. for a moment of remembrance through prayer, quiet reflection, or meditation.

We have been blessed this week to have a great media focus on the heroes of our armed services. Last Sunday night the James Keach Movie, "Submerged" aired on network television. This movie portrayed the heroics of the submariners of our early Navy and told the true story of raising a submarine and saving many of its crew. This Friday the movie "Pearl Harbor" will premier in theaters across the nation. I am pleased that these artists have used their talents and efforts to share with the world the stories that are such a vital component of our nation's history.

I am also pleased that we are preparing a sixty-year remembrance event at Pearl Har-

bor. We are fortunate in the 107th Congress to have heroes among us. The following are members of the House and Senate who served in the armed services during World War II. From the House of Representatives: CASS BALLENGER, JOHN D. DINGELL, BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, RALPH M. HALL, AMO HOUGHTON, HENRY J. HYDE, JOE MOAKLEY, RALPH REGULA, Norman Sisisky, JOE SKEEN, and BOB STUMP. From the Senate: DANIEL K. AKAKA, JESSE HELMS, ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, DANIEL K. INOUE, TED STEVENS, STROM THURMOND, and JOHN WARNER.

As we go about remembering those who died in service, I hope we will also remember those who are still with us. Each month over 38,000 World War II veterans die. Our veterans are our nation's heroes. Whether a Private or a General, combat veteran who served on the front lines, a nurse in a MASH unit, or the quartermaster who was stateside during war—our veterans deserve to be remembered and honored by our country and by each of us. We need to make sure every eligible veteran who goes to a Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital or clinic for medical care is treated with compassion and respect and gets good medical care. We also need to make sure that we do a better job with those whose conditions mean their care is palliative and not curative.

During a Government Reform Committee hearing in October 1999, we learned that the VA had an initiative to improve their hospice programs. We heard from such experts as Dr. Ira Byock and Dr. Judith Salerno as well as Dannon Brinkley who founded Compassion in Action—a non-profit foundation that trains hospice volunteers to serve in VA hospitals. I am pleased that in four short years this organization has been able to train 4,000 hospice volunteers who last year provided 27,000 hours of service to veterans.

Americans who volunteer through Compassion in Action, the American Legion, the Paralyzed Veterans Association, and the many other volunteer service organizations at the VA are also our heroes. Many of these volunteers are veterans as well and continue to serve their country as brigades of volunteers without whom our VA hospitals could not function. I am pleased that our President is continuing the legacy of the Thousand Points of Light by rejuvenating the call to volunteerism and compassion through service.

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this is National Safe Boating Week. In the year 2000, over 72 million Americans participated in recreational boating activities. However, between 700 and 800 Americans will be killed in recreational boating accidents this year.

It will take a continued effort by State Boating Law Administrators, Manufacturers, boating safety educators, and the many other organizations involved in boating to decrease the number of Americans killed every year on our waterways.

Today, I would like to ask the cellular telephone industry in the United States to join this effort by designating "CG" as the emergency response number that boaters can use in an emergency to make free calls to the nearest Coast Guard unit.

Over the past decade, more and more Americans are carrying cellular telephones wherever they are—including on their boat. I am pleased to recognize that companies such as Verizon and Alltel wireless allow many of their customers to call the Coast Guard using *CG. However, the use of *CG is not universal. For example, in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, *CG will reach the Coast Guard if you are using a Verizon phone. However, if you happen to be using a Sprint Cellular phone you reach a recording that says "invalid code entered"; on Cellular One and Nextel you get "call cannot be completed as dialed." Even within a singular cellular telephone company, designation of *CG for emergency communications is not universal. For example, Verizon has *CG connections in Seattle and Massachusetts, but not in Norfolk, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, when a boater is in distress they need to be able to reach the local Coast Guard unit as soon as possible. They may not have a VHF radio on board and the only way to reach the Coast Guard is by using their cellular telephone. Time is of the essence, and they can't wait to go through the operator to reach the nearest Coast Guard unit.

Today I would like to call on the U.S. cellular phone industry to designate *CG as the nationwide phone number for boaters to reach the Coast Guard during emergencies using cell phones and to ask them to program their networks to route these calls to the nearest appropriate Coast Guard facility. They too can join the coalition of people in the United States striving to save boaters lives.

The Coast Guard has a template agreement that they have been successfully implemented around the country. Once all of these companies are on board, we can initiate a boating safety campaign to educate the boating public about the universal access to *CG during emergencies.

Please help us save lives by establishing a national *CG system.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record an article about Verizon Wireless use of *CG in the Seattle area.

VERIZON WIRELESS LINKS BOATERS TO COAST
GUARD

DON'T CAST OFF WITHOUT YOUR WIRELESS
PHONE

SEATTLE, May 2 /PRNewswire/—With the official arrival of a new boating season on May 5, Verizon Wireless reminds boaters that it offers its customers a direct connection to the U.S. or Canadian Coast Guard by dialing *CG (*24) from their Verizon Wireless phone. There is no access fee to use *CG. Airtime is deducted from customers' calling plan bundle.

"While VHF-FM maritime channel 16 should be used as the primary means for reporting an emergency," said Kelly DeLaney, Verizon Wireless regional president, "our extensive marine coverage gives boaters another reliable means of communication while on the water that increases convenience and enhances safety and security. Boaters can use *CG to get help if there is an emergency, or to pass along information